

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

CANDIDATE A .J. THOMPSON WARD 6	)	CASE NO. 1:09CV2113
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	JUDGE SOLOMON OLIVER, JR.
v.	)	
	)	
ARGENT MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC,	)	MEMORANDUM OF OPINION
<i>et al.</i>	)	<u>AND ORDER</u>
	)	
Defendants.	)	

This action was originally filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County, Ohio by *pro se* plaintiff A.J. Thompson against twenty-three defendants of which four are residents of the State of Ohio as is the plaintiff. All defendants own property in the City of Cleveland, Ohio. He alleges that these properties are a nuisance to him in that they “contain/maintain perpetual danger and health code violations.” He further alleges that the properties “create and maintain habitation/resort for violence and danger; for thieves, robbery, drug activity, prostitution, kidnaping, molestation/rape and murder/execution, to include pollutants, stray and wild animals, rodents and pest.” He asserts that, “These defendants must not be continued allowed to continue such heinous crime spree against Plaintiffs and against Plaintiffs’ Community without, consequences, repercussions, and/or mollification whatsoever.”<sup>1</sup>

**Analysis**

This action was removed by BAC Tax Services Corporation (“BAC”) of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). Although complete diversity does not exist, BAC contends that removal is

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<sup>1</sup>He refers to Plaintiff as plural but only one Plaintiff is named in the complaint.

appropriate because under Rule 21 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure this court can retain jurisdiction by severing claims against non-diverse dispensable defendants.

28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) provides that “any civil action brought in a State court of which the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, may be removed by the defendant or the defendants, to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending.” Removal is proper only if the action could have been originally filed in the district court. *Geffen v. General Electric Company*, 575 F. Supp.2d 865, 868 (N.D. Ohio 2008)(citing *Chase Manhattan Mortg. Corp. v. Smith*, 507 F.3d 910, 914 (6th Cir. 2007)). BAC has invoked diversity jurisdiction under § 1332 which requires complete diversity at the time of removal in that the citizenship of each plaintiff be diverse from that of each defendant. *Caterpillar Inc. v. Lewis*, 519 U.S. 61, 68 (1996); *Coyne v. American Tobacco Co.*, 183 F.3d 488, 492 (6th Cir.1999); *Geffen*, 575 F.Supp.2d at 868. Plaintiff is a resident of Ohio as are four defendants. The court concludes that, as removal is improper, federal jurisdiction does not exist.

### **Conclusion**

Accordingly, the court concludes that, as removal is improper, federal jurisdiction does not exist. Since this court lacks subject matter jurisdiction, whether or not the complaint states a cause of action should be resolved by the state court. The action is hereby remanded to the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/SOLOMON OLIVER, JR.  
JUDGE SOLOMON OLIVER, JR.  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

September 30, 2009